



Definitions & Examples of Paradigm Thinking

Challenge All Assumptions

- To *assume* something means to take it for granted.
- Assumptions are nonverified and are nonverifiable until after the fact.

Explore Alternatives

- For every action/activity in our churches, we have a variety of alternatives.
- There is no guarantee that, because something was effective in one time or place, it will be effective again.
- In an age of constantly shifting paradigms, we can't afford not to explore options.

Adopt Other Points of View

- Paradigm thinking requires the ability to see from various perspectives.
- It costs little to see things from other people's points of view, but the benefits can be priceless.

Read Extensively Outside Your Area of Expertise

- When we enter unfamiliar territory, we see many new things, and we process them differently. Reading information that is outside our areas of expertise pushes us to see things in a new way.
- It is human nature to see the world through filters (mental maps).

Find Success in Every Attempt

- To know the full beauty and value of the stone, one must view it from all sides.
- When we seek success in every attempt, and when we measure any learning as success, then we never fail.

